(b) if so, whether India has got the expertise in this field or it will obtain technology from some other country; and

(c) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has informed that they have taken up the task of technology demonstration for tele-connectivity through INSAT satellites, to provide medical services to remote areas. The concept is to connect hospitals in remote areas with super specialty hospitals, to enable tele-consultations between doctors of different locations about the patients. This is a major step forward in extending the reach and quality of health services to remote areas. At present telemedicine connectivity is provided on INSAT-3B satellite and the experience gained will provide a data base for configuring a Health Satellite.

Setting up of heavy industries in backward districts

4567. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up heavy industries in the backward districts of the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) So far as the Department of Heavy Industry is concerned, there is no proposal at present to set up any new public sector units during the Tenth Five Year Plan anywhere in the country.

(c) The Government propose to withdraw from the non-strategic sector.

Disbursement of wage arrears

4568. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any precise guidelines have been set for the disbursement of wage arrears/VRS/terminal benefits for the employees of units which are under disinvestment process;

(b) if so, the percentage of funds disbursed as arrears of wages/VRS/ terminal benefits to employees out of total income accruing from disinvestment of sick PSUs till now;

(c) whether Government are offering shares to employees of the units under disinvestment as a part of their dues; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) In the case of PSUs which are under disinvestment process, the existing guidelines issued by the Government from time to time on wage arrears/VRS/Terminal benefits will continue to apply to them till disinvestment process is completed. In the transaction agreements between the Government of India and the strategic partner of the enterprises which are proposed to be disinvested, appropriate provisions are made to provide VRS benefits to the employees not inferior to the scheme framed by the Government or by the Company itself, whichever is higher. However, there is no linkage between accrual out of disinvestment and the payment of VRS dues. There is no automatic offer of share to the employees of units under disinvestment at present. Such proposals are decided case by case.

Infrastructure projects

4569. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to finance the viability gap of infrastructure projects undertaken by the Private Sector so as to ensure that these projects are a success ;

(b) whether Government propose to finance the difference between the rate of return that the bank would require for projects to be financed and the actual rate of return for the project ; and

(c) if so, the details of the scheme and its impact on the viability of projects ?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and it will be laid on the Table of the House.

Excessive manpower in PSUs

4570. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the PSUs using obsolete technology and having excess manpower, PSU-wise;